

EXCERPT FROM HEARINGS OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947, (S. 758), ON TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1947.

SENATOR TIDINGS: Admiral, I do not want to revert to another subject, and maybe you would prefer to bring it up in the regular course. But looking at this proposed chart of the way that the unification will be carried out under the bill, when you get down to the Central Intelligence Agency, which certainly is one of the most important of all the functions set forth in the bill. I notice that it reports directly to the President and does not seem to have any line running to the War Department, or the Navy Department, or to the Secretary for Air. And I was wondering if that rather excluded position, you might say, was a wholesome thing.

ADMIRAL SHERMAN: They serve the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as it seems to me that Central Intelligence Agency ought to have more direct contact with the Army and the Navy and the Air Force; and as I see it on the chart here, it is pretty well set aside and goes only to the President. What is the reason for that?

ADMIRAL SHERMAN: Well, sir, this diagram shows the primary control of the Central Intelligence Agency through the National Security Council which, of course, is responsible to the President. But, of course, the Central Intelligence Agency, by its detailed directive, takes information in from the military services and also supplies them with information. It is true, in this particular chart, that it has only the primary line of control, with the exception of one dotted line. In other words, it is a staff agency and controlled through the National Security Council, which is supported by the military services, and in turn, supports them.

SENATOR TIDINGS: It seems to me that of course they would diffuse such information as a matter of orderly procedure to the Army, Navy and Air Force, as they collected the information and as they deemed it pertinent. But I would feel a little more secure about it if there were a line running from that agency to the War Department, the Navy Department, and the Air Force, rather than have it go up through the President and back again. Because the President is a rather busy man, and while he has control over it, one of its functions, it seems to me, ought to be to have a closer tie-in with the three services than the chart indicates.

ADMIRAL SHERMAN: Well, sir, that is the trouble with the diagram. Actually, the Security Council, placed directly under it, has members of the three departments, the Secretary of National Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, who collaborates very closely with Military and Naval Intelligence, and there are a good many other cross-relationships.